

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a current listing of claims and will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows:

1-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing instructions that when executed by a personal computer system connected to a network are capable of causing the personal computer system to:

define a meta-folder as a type of graphical element, wherein an instantiation of the meta-folder graphical element type is associative with 1) one or more search objects having corresponding search criteria and 2) one or more conventional objects;

display, via a first graphical interface of the computer system, a first graphical representation of a first meta-folder instantiated on the computer system;

upon selection of the first meta-folder via the first graphical interface;

for any search objects associated with the first meta-folder, initiate searching the computer system and the network for conventional objects that satisfy the corresponding search criteria; and

display, via the first graphical interface, graphical elements representing 1) any conventional objects located as a result of the searching and 2) any conventional objects associated with the first meta-folder.

display a meta folder, wherein the meta folder is a file system object that is associated with search criteria;

receive a command to open the meta folder;

in response to receiving the command to open the meta folder, initiate searching the network and the personal computer system for conventional objects that satisfy the search criteria; and

display icons representing the conventional objects that result from the searching.

24. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the network includes a local area network.

25. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the network includes a wide area network.

26. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the network includes the Internet.

27. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the network includes a local area network, a wide area network or the Internet and the network includes a collection of storage systems for storing at least some of the conventional objects located as a result of the searching.

28. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the network includes a local area network and a wide area network.

29. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the network includes a local area network and the Internet.

30. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the network includes a wide area network and the Internet.

31. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the network includes a local area network, a wide area network and the Internet.

32. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the network includes a user server connected to the personal computer system.

33. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium of claim 32, wherein the user server stores the first meta-folder.

34. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium of claim 33, wherein the user server stores at least some of the conventional objects located as a result of the searching.

35. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium-of claim 32, wherein the user server is connected to the personal computer system via a local area network.

36. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium of claim 32, wherein the user server is connected to the personal computer system via a wide area network.

37. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium of claim 32, wherein the user server is connected to the personal computer system via the Internet.

38. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium of claim 32, wherein the user server is connected to a content server via the Internet.

39. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium of claim 38, wherein the content server is a web-page server, an FTP server or a news server.

40. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium of claim 32, wherein the user server is connected to a vendor server via the Internet.

41. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium of claim 40, wherein the first meta-folder is stored on the vendor server or the user server.

42. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium of claim 40, wherein the vendor server includes a search engine or media products.

43. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium of claim 40, wherein the vendor server includes media products including books, video tapes, DVDs, CDs and audio cassettes.

44. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the instructions are further capable of causing the personal computer system to initiate a transfer of the first meta-folder from the user to another user via the network.

45. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium of claim 44, wherein the transfer occurs through electronic mail.

46. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the conventional objects include conventional folders, conventional files, electronic mail, notes, contact or address book items, or files containing text, audio or video information.

47. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the search criteria include wildcard characters.

48-49. (Canceled)

50. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the first meta-folder includes descriptive text.

51. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium of claim 50, wherein the descriptive text describes the search criteria.

52. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the instructions are further capable of causing the personal computer system to display the first meta-folder, the conventional objects that satisfy the corresponding search criteria, icons representing the conventional objects and any conventional objects associated with the first meta-folder other objects on a single screen of the user interface.

53. (Canceled)

54. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the first meta-folder includes associated conventional objects that pertain to music.

55. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium of claim 54, wherein the instructions are further capable of causing the personal computer system to initiate playing the music.

56. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium of claim 54, wherein the instructions are further capable of causing the personal computer system to generate icons graphical representations that indicate whether the music is owned or un-owned.

57. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium of claim 54, wherein the instructions are further capable of causing the personal computer system to initiate a purchase of the music.

58. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium of claim 54, wherein the instructions are further capable of causing the ~~personal~~ computer system to provide a link from which the user can purchase the music.

59. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing instructions that when executed by a personal computer system connected to a network are capable of causing the personal computer system to:

define a meta-folder graphical element type on the computer system, wherein the meta-folder graphical element type permits the association of 1) one or more search objects having corresponding search criteria and 2) one or more conventional objects with an instantiation of the meta-folder graphical element type on the computer system;

display, via a first graphical interface of the computer system, a first graphical representation of a first meta-folder instantiated on the computer system;

upon selection of the first graphical representation of the first meta-folder via the first graphical interface:

initiate searching the computer system, a local area network, and the Internet for conventional objects that satisfy the search criteria for any search objects associated with the first meta-folder; and

display, via the first graphical interface, graphical elements representing 1) conventional objects located as a result of the searching and 2) any conventional objects associated with the first meta-folder,

display a meta folder, wherein the meta folder is a file system object that is associated with search criteria;

receive a command to open the meta folder;

in response to receiving the command to open the meta folder, initiate searching the personal computer, a local area network and the Internet for conventional objects that satisfy the search criteria; and

display icons representing the conventional objects that result from the searching.

60. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium of claim 59, wherein the network includes a user server connected to the personal computer system.

61. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium of claim 60, wherein the user server stores the first meta-folder.

62. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium of claim 60, wherein the user server stores at least some of the conventional objects located as a result of the searching.

63. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium of claim 60, wherein the user server is connected to the personal computer system via the local area network.

64. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium of claim 60, wherein the user server is connected to the personal computer system via a wide area network.

65. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium of claim 60, wherein the user server is connected to the personal computer system via the Internet.

66. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium of claim 60, wherein the user server is connected to a content server via the Internet.

67. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium of claim 66, wherein the content server is a web-page server, an FTP server or a news server.

68. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium of claim 60, wherein the user server is connected to a vendor server via the Internet.

69. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium of claim 68, wherein the first meta-folder is stored on the vendor server or the user server.

70. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium of claim 68, wherein the vendor server includes a search engine or media products.

71. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium of claim 68, wherein the vendor server includes media products including books, video tapes, DVDs, CDs and audio cassettes.

72. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium of claim 59, wherein the instructions are further capable of causing the personal computer system to display the first meta-folder, the

icons representing graphical representations of the conventional objects located as a result of the searching and other objects on a single screen of the user first graphical interface.

73. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium of claim 59, wherein the instructions are further capable of causing the personal computer system to display the first meta-folder, the icons representing graphical representations of the conventional objects and other objects in an intermingling manner on the user first graphical interface.

74. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing instructions that when executed by an enhanced device connected to a network are capable of causing the enhanced device to:

display a first meta-folder containing a first search object, wherein the a meta-folder is a graphical element type associable with search objects and conventional objects, each search object having corresponding search criteria file system object that is associated with search criteria;

receive a command to open the first meta-folder;

in response to receiving the command to open the first meta-folder, initiate searching the network and the enhanced device for conventional objects that satisfy the search criteria corresponding to search objects in the first meta-folder, including search criteria corresponding to the first search object; and

display icons representing graphical representations of the conventional objects that result from the searching.

75. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium of claim 74, wherein the enhanced device is a personal digital assistant.

76. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium of claim 75, wherein the instructions are further capable of causing the personal digital assistant to display the first meta-folder, the icons representing graphical representations of the conventional objects that result from the searching, and other objects in an intermingling manner on the a user interface of the personal digital assistant.

77. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium of claim 74, wherein the enhanced device is a web-access enabled portable telephone.

78. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium of claim 77, wherein the instructions are further capable of causing the web-access enabled portable telephone to display the first meta-folder, the icons representing graphical representations of the conventional objects that result from the searching, and other objects in an intermingling manner on the a user interface of the portable telephone.

79. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium of claim 74, wherein the enhanced device is an audio player.

80. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium of claim 79, wherein the instructions are further capable of causing the audio player to display the first meta-folder, the icons representing graphical representations of the conventional objects that result from the searching, and other objects in an intermingling manner on the a user interface of the audio player.

81-85. (Canceled)

86. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing instructions that when executed by a ~~personal computer computing device~~ are capable of causing the ~~personal computer computing device~~ to:

display at least one meta-folder, wherein the meta-folder is an instantiation of a graphical element type that is associable with search objects and conventional objects a file system object, wherein the meta-folder is associated with one or more search objects having corresponding search criteria, whereupon opening selection of the meta-folder, a search is initiated for conventional objects that satisfy the search criteria; and

display at least one conventional folder that statically points to at least one conventional object;

wherein the meta-folder and the conventional folder appear together in the same context of a single interface.

87. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium of claim 86, wherein the context includes a window.

88. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium of claim 86, wherein the context includes a window pane.

89. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium of claim 86, wherein the context includes an icon bar.

90. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing instructions that when executed by a personal computer system are capable of causing the personal computer system to:

display at least one meta-folder, wherein the meta-folder is a graphical element type that permits association with objects including search objects having corresponding search criteria file system object that is associated with search criteria;

upon opening the meta-folder,

search for conventional objects that_[-]satisfy the search criteria, and

display the search result conventional objects resulting from the search; and

display together with the search result conventional objects resulting from the search at least one static conventional object to which the meta-folder statically points.

91. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium of claim 90, wherein the instructions permit search objects and at least one of the search result conventional objects and static conventional object are to be dragged and dropped into the meta-folder.

92. (Currently Amended) A computer program embodied on a computer readable storage medium comprising code executable to:

receive a selection of a first graphical element displayed on a graphical user interface of a computer system;

in response to the selection, display an icon representing a search object along with one or more icons representing conventional objects in a window of [[a]] the graphical user interface, wherein the search object defines a searching criteria;

initiate resolution of the search object by searching for additional conventional objects that satisfy the searching criteria; and

display the icons representing the one or more conventional objects along with icons representing the additional conventional objects that satisfy the searching criteria in the window of the graphical user interface.

93. (Currently Amended) The computer program of Claim 92 wherein ~~initiating~~ resolution of the search object is performed automatically after displaying the icon representing the search object.

94. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a computerized system having a memory;

a display unit controllable by the computerized system;

wherein the computerized system is configured to execute program instructions stored in the memory to:

display a representation of an instantiation of a first graphical element type associable with search objects and conventional objects;

upon selection of the instantiation of the first graphical element type, cause an icon representing a search object along with one or more icons representing conventional objects to be displayed in a window of the display unit, wherein the search object has corresponding defines a searching criteria;

initiate resolution of the search object by searching for additional conventional objects that satisfy the searching criteria; and

cause the icons representing the one or more conventional objects along with icons representing the additional conventional objects that satisfy the searching criteria to be displayed in the window of the display unit.

95. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 94 wherein the computerized system is configured to initiate resolution of the search object when the icon representing the search object is displayed in the window of the display unit.

96. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
a computerized system having a memory;
a display unit controllable by the computerized system;
wherein the computerized system is configured to execute program instructions stored in the memory to:
cause a meta-folder be displayed on the display unit, wherein the meta-folder is an instantiation of a graphical element type that is associative with one or more search objects and one or more conventional objects, wherein the meta-folder is associated with at least one search object having corresponding search criteria file system object that is associated with search criteria;
receive a command to open the meta-folder;
in response to receiving the command to open the meta-folder, initiate searching for conventional objects that satisfy the search criteria; and
cause icons representing the conventional objects resulting from the search to be displayed on the display unit.

97. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 96 wherein the meta-folder and the icons representing the conventional objects resulting from the search are displayed within the context of a window on the display unit.

98. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 96 wherein the computerized system includes a personal computer and an interface to the Internet, and wherein searching for the conventional objects includes searching for conventional objects via the Internet.

99. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 96, wherein the search criteria corresponding to the meta-folder's search object includes wildcard characters.

100. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 96, wherein the meta-folder includes indicia indicative of a search function.

101. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 100, wherein the indicia is a magnifying glass.

102. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer implemented~~ method comprising:

displaying a meta-folder, wherein the meta-folder is a file system object that is an instantiation of a graphical element type that is associative with one or more search objects and one or more conventional objects, wherein the meta-folder is associated with at least one search object having corresponding is associated with search criteria;

receiving a command to open the meta-folder;

in response to receiving the command to open the meta-folder, initiating searching a first computing device and a network coupled to the computing device the network and the personal computer for conventional objects that satisfy the search criteria;

and

displaying icons representing the conventional objects that result from the searching.

103. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 102, wherein the meta-folder and the icons representing the conventional objects are displayed in a single window.

104. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 102, wherein the network includes a local area network, a wide area network or the Internet and the network includes a collection of storage systems for storing ~~at least some of the~~ one or more conventional objects.

105. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 102, further comprising transferring wherein the instructions are further capable of causing the personal computer to initiate a transfer of the meta-folder from the user to another user via the network.

106. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 105, wherein the transfer occurs through electronic mail.

107. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 102, wherein the conventional objects that result from the searching include conventional folders, conventional files, electronic mail, notes, contact or address book items or files containing text, audio or video information.

108. (New) A computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein the first meta-folder includes at least one search object and at least one conventional object that the first meta-folder statically points to.

109. (New) A computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein the first meta-folder includes at least one search object, and wherein the first meta-folder does not statically point to any conventional objects.